

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 DHA-02 /078 W

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P R 230315Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3446

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3335

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: KS US PGOV PINS

SUBJ: ACTING MOFA: "U.S. ENTERTAINS ANTI-ROK SUBVERSIVES"

1. AT MEETING ON APRIL 22 ACTING FONMIN YOON RAISED WITH AMBASSADOR SNEIDER THE ROKG'S CONCERN AT ANTI-ROKG ORGANIZATIONS IN THE U.S. THEY WERE MAKING PROPAGANDA AND ATTEMPTING TO OVERTHROW OR SUBVERT THE ROKG. THEY HAD THE LARGE NEWSPAPERS AS THEIR ALLIES AND CONSTITUTED A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE ROKG, A FRIENDLY COUNTRY.

2. AMBASSADOR SNEIDER JUMPED ON YOON WITH BOTH FEET. HE POINTED OUT YOON SHOULD UNDERSTAND BY NOW THAT US TRADITIONALLY TOLERATED OPPOSITION GROUPS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD AS LONG AS THEIR ACTIVITIES WERE LEGAL. THE SOLUTION TO THE ROKG'S CONCERNS LAY IN ITS OWN DOMESTIC POLICIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THE ROKG HAD THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO DEAL WITH DOMESTIC POLITICAL OPPOSITION AS IT WISHED, BUT IT SHOULD NOT EXPECT THAT POLICIES CONTRARY TO AMERICAN TRADITIONS WOULD GO UNNOTICED OR UNCRITICIZED. IF IT WAS SO CONCERNED ABOUT ANTI-ROKG GROUPS IN THE US, IT HAD IT WITHIN ITS OWN POWER TO DESTROY THEIR CREDIBILITY. THE US HAD ALL KINDS OF ANTI-GROUPS BUT THEY HAD NO POWER TO INFLUENCE AND WERE IGNORED, UNLESS THEIR CHARGES WERE MADE CREDIBLE BY THE GOVERNMENTS THEY CRITICIZED.

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3. YOON REPEATED THAT THESE GROUPS WERE TOO WELL ORGANIZED AND FINANCED NOT TO HAVE NORTH KOREAN HELP AND THAT THE USG WAS ENCOURAGING THEM. AMBASSADOR SNEIDER RESPONDED THAT THE USG WOULD ACT IF THE ROKG COULD PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITY. IN ITS ABSENCE, HOWEVER, WE WOULD DO NOTHING. OPPOSITION TO THE ROKG WAS NO CRIME. THE SOLUTION LAY WITH THE ROKG,

WHOSE ACTIONS WOULD DETERMINE WHETHER THE OPPOSITION GROUPS WERE EFFECTIVE IN THE U.S. THE PRESIDENT HAD GIVEN US A LIST OF OPPOSITION ORGANIZATIONS WHICH WE HAD FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON BUT IT WAS NOT CLEAR THAT THEY HAD ACTED ILLEGALLY. TO REPORT YOON'S COMMENTS TO WASHINGTON WOULD NOT HELP KOREA'S CAUSE; IT ONLY SUGGESTED LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF AMERICAN POLITICAL PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE.

4. YOON DENIED IT WAS SIMPLY A MATTER OF CRITICISM, RATHER IT WAS SUBVERSION WHICH WOULD DESTROY KOREA, BY ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING DISSIDENTS IN ROK. THE AMBASSADOR SCOFFED AT YOON'S FEARS. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ROKG WAS STRONG AND SECURE. ITS STRENGTHS LAY IN ITS SUPPORT FROM PEOPLE AND IN ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

5. COMMENT: YOON AT NO POINT GAVE IMPRESSION THAT, IN THIS INSTANCE, HE WAS ACTING UNDER BLUE HOUSE INSTRUCTIONS AND YOON, THE CONSUMMATE BUREAUCRATIC SOLDIER, ALWAYS MAKES CLEAR WHEN HE IS ACTING UNDER BLUE HOUSE ORDERS. THEREFORE DOUBT THAT HE WAS. MY GUESS IS THAT YOON WAS TRYING TO PROTECT HIS BOSS AND TO THROW BALL BACK TO US ON OUR CRITICISM OF FONMIN'S STATEMENT TO LA TIMES ON SURVEILLANCE OF KOREANS IN US. ERGO, IF ROK CANNOT ACT AGAINST KOREANS, THEN IT IS UP TO USG TO DO SO. I DOUBT, PERHAPS WISTFULLY, THAT WE WILL HEAR MUCH MORE OF THIS MALADROIT EFFORT.

SNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PGOV, PINS, KS, US, (YOON HA-JONG), (SNEIDER, RICHARD)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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